

May 15, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

We write to express our strong support and sincere gratitude for the recent Order addressing budget shortfalls in the Universal Service Fund's (USF) High-Cost program. The Order is an essential, immediate step in the right direction, and we now encourage the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to continue down this path by acting quickly on the notice of proposed rulemaking to provide long-term, predictable support. Such additional steps are necessary to ensure rural Americans have access to high quality voice and broadband services.

The FCC's recent Order approving an infusion of funds into the USF is greatly welcomed, and will provide needed support for small, rural carriers that rely on the High-Cost USF program. Despite this, persistent limitations on resources can affect the ability of smaller broadband providers to deliver services in our country's most rural communities. The FCC's cost model for smaller operators electing model-based USF support is not yet funded at the designed levels, and carriers not receiving model-based support will once again face significant funding cuts when the program's new fiscal year takes effect on July 1, 2018. These recurring budget shortfalls result in lower speeds, more unserved locations, and higher prices for rural consumers and businesses.

Congress has expressed consistent, bipartisan support for addressing shortfalls in the USF program. In April 2017, 58 Senators called on the FCC to provide adequate resources for broadband delivery services to rural consumers in areas that are the hardest and costliest to serve. In May 2017, 102 Representatives wrote to the FCC, expressing similar concerns about the impacts of insufficient USF resources on rural consumers.

We commend the FCC's actions thus far to address and modernize USF support. Taking action on the notice of proposed rulemaking and establishing lasting solutions that allow the reformed High-Cost mechanism to work as designed would enable many smaller operators to offer high quality, affordable broadband to consumers across rural America. It is important to consider any modifications needed to meet the program's objectives of ensuring consistent network build-out and strengthening ongoing service, for locations otherwise unserved, in our nation's high-cost rural areas.

Thank you for the actions you have undertaken thus far to support the USF and for considering this request. We share your goal of eliminating the digital divide and look forward to working with you to maintain accessible, affordable broadband for rural American consumers and businesses.

Sincerely,



Deb Fischer  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



John Thune  
Chairman, Senate Commerce Committee



Bill Nelson  
Ranking Member, Senate Commerce Committee



Roy Blunt  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



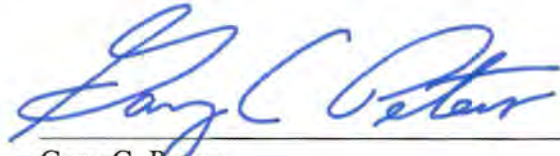
Jerry Moran  
United States Senator



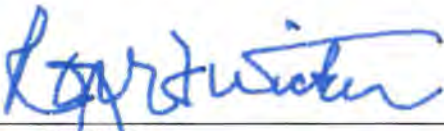
Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



Cory Gardner  
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator

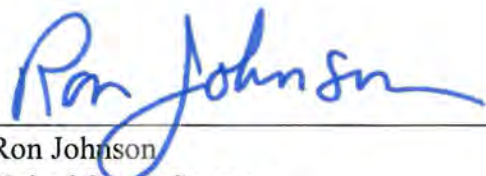




Todd Young  
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



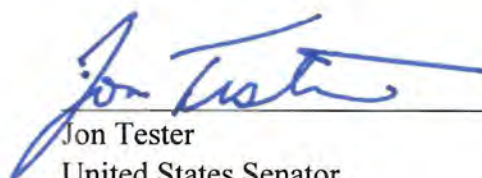
Ron Johnson  
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator



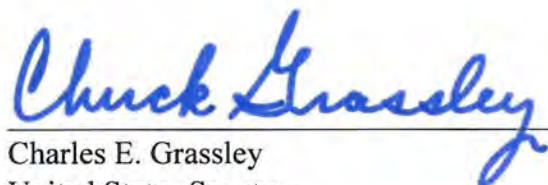
Jon Tester  
United States Senator



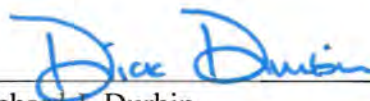
James M. Inhofe  
United States Senator



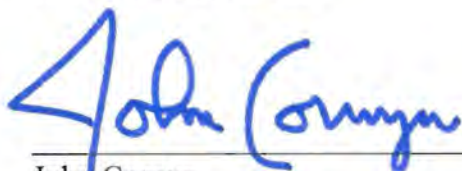
Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



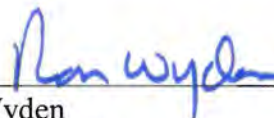
John Cornyn  
United States Senator



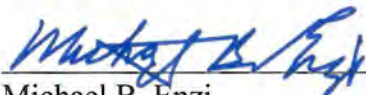
Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Pat Roberts  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Michael B. Enzi  
United States Senator



Tina Smith  
United States Senator



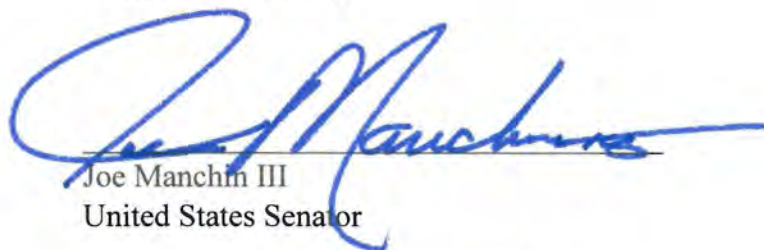
John Barrasso, M.D.  
United States Senator



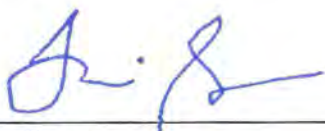
Claire McCaskill  
United States Senator



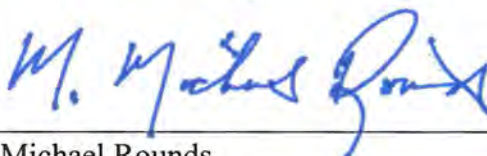
John Hoeven  
United States Senator



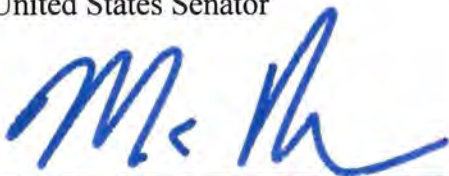
Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



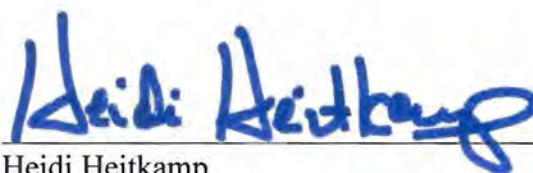
Tim Scott  
United States Senator



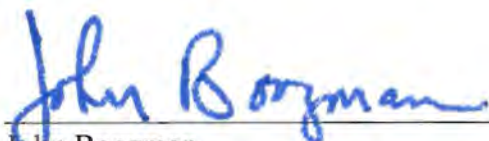
M. Michael Rounds  
United States Senator



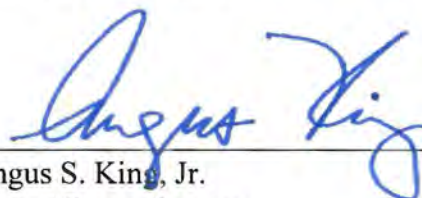
Marco Rubio  
United States Senator



Heidi Heitkamp  
United States Senator



John Boozman  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator

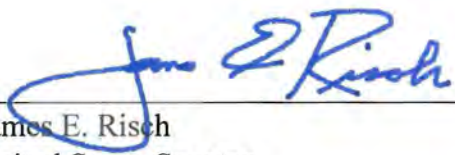


Mike Crapo  
United States Senator

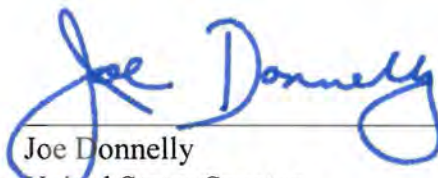


Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator





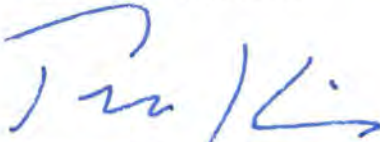
James E. Risch  
United States Senator



Joe Donnelly  
United States Senator



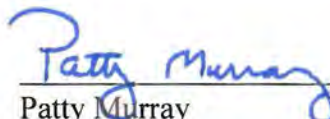
Tom Cotton  
United States Senator



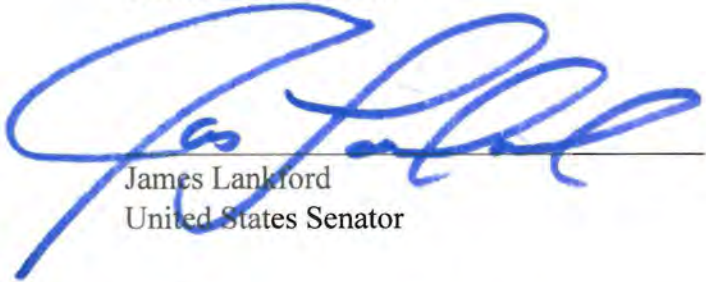
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Johnny Isakson  
United States Senator



Patty Murray  
United States Senator



James Lankford  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



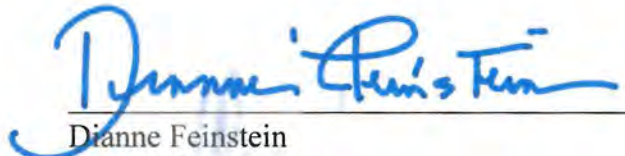
Lindsey O. Graham  
United States Senator



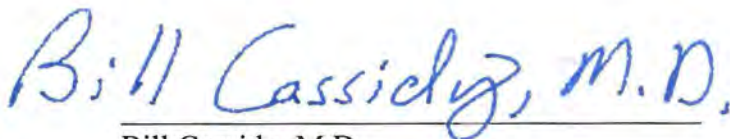
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



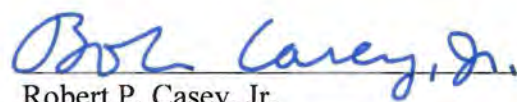
Steve Daines  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



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Rob Portman  
United States Senator



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Richard Burr  
United States Senator



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Ben Sasse  
United States Senator



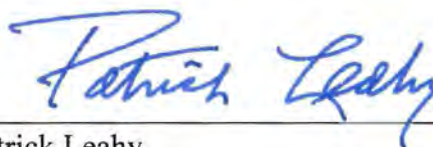
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Mark Warner  
United States Senator



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Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



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Patrick Leahy  
United States Senator



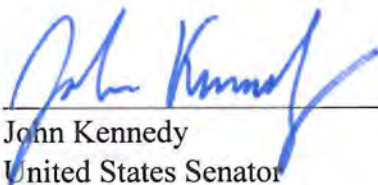
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Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



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Cindy Hyde-Smith  
United States Senator



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John Kennedy  
United States Senator





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senate  
302 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration’s policy of punishing these carriers instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural American—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we’re going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That’s why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Ruling that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and the additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ajit V. Pai".  
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Angus King  
United States Senate  
133 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator King:

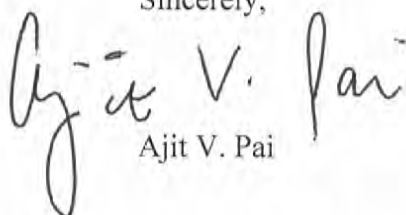
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Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Ben Sasse  
United States Senate  
386A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sasse:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
United States Senate  
703 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cassidy:

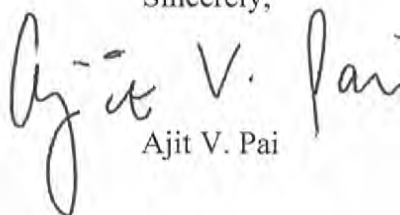
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Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Bill Nelson  
United States Senate  
716 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Bob Casey  
United States Senate  
393 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

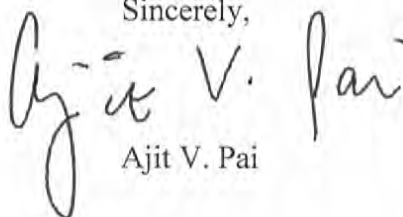
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Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senate  
B40A Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cortez Masto:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

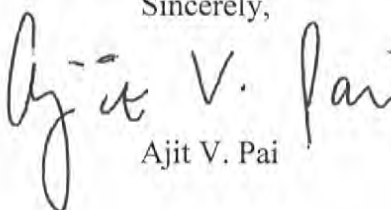
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Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith  
United States Senate  
G12 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hyde-Smith:

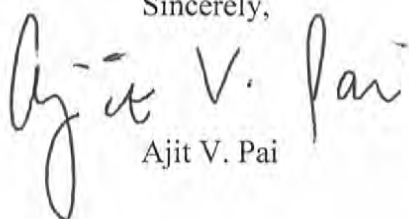
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I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
730 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McCaskill:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

August 6, 2018

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Cory Gardner  
United States Senate  
354 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gardner:

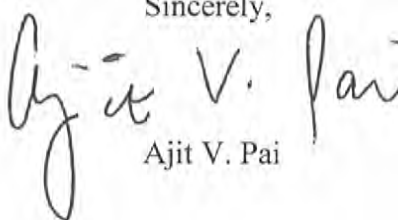
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Deb Fischer  
United States Senate  
454 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Fischer:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senate  
731 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Stabenow:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Gary Peters  
United States Senate  
724 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Peters:

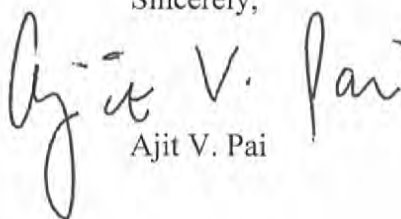
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp  
United States Senate  
110 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Heitkamp:

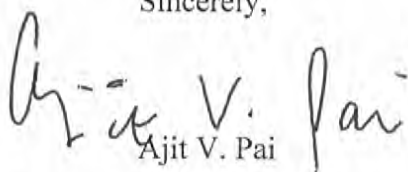
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable James Lankford  
United States Senate  
316 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lankford:

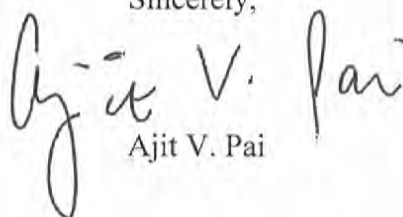
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable James M. Inhofe  
United States Senate  
205 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Inhofe:

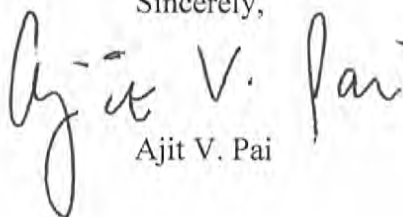
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senate  
506 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen:

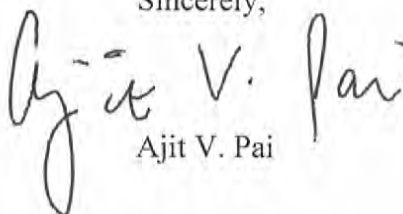
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
United States Senate  
313 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

August 6, 2018

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
United States Senate  
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Moran:

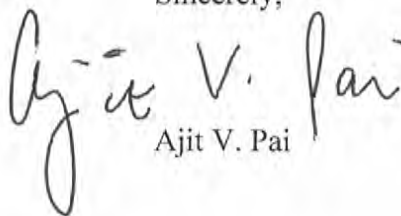
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Jim Risch  
United States Senate  
483 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Risch:

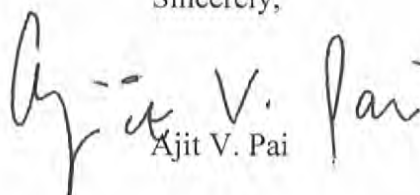
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Joe Donnelly  
United States Senate  
720 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Donnelly:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural American—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Ruling that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and the additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai".

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Joe Manchin  
United States Senate  
306 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Manchin:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable John Barrasso  
United States Senate  
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Barrasso:

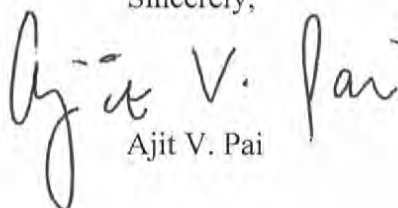
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable John Boozman  
United States Senate  
141 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Boozman:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural American—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

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Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable John Cornyn  
United States Senate  
517 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable John Hoeven  
United States Senate  
338 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hoeven:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable John N. Kennedy  
United States Senate  
B11 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kennedy:

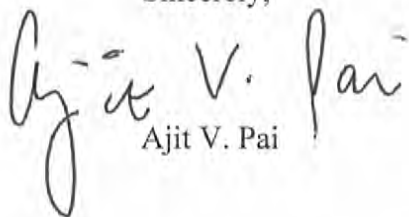
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Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable John Thune  
United States Senate  
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Thune:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Johnny Isakson  
United States Senate  
131 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Isakson:

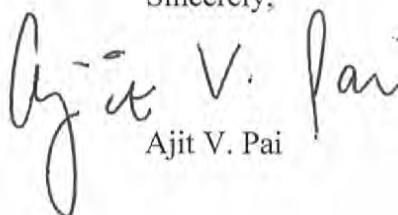
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Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Jon Tester  
United States Senate  
311 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Tester:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senate  
478 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

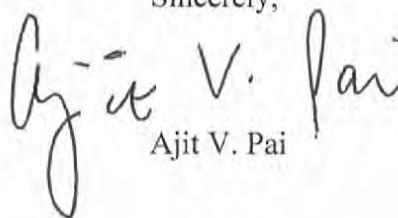
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
United States Senate  
290 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Graham:

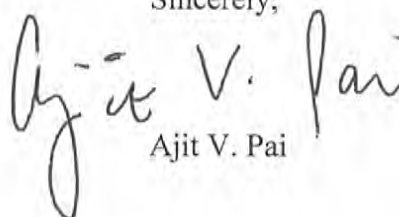
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Maggie Hassan  
United States Senate  
B85 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hassan:

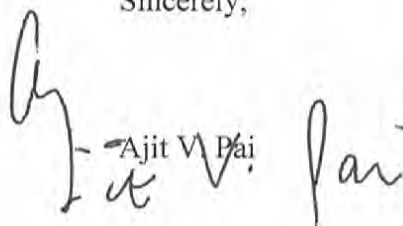
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
United States Senate  
284 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Rubio:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
United States Senate  
511 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cantwell:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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Nonetheless, I agree with you that more must be done if we're going to extend digital opportunity to all Americans. That's why in March the Commission issued a detailed Notice of Proposed Ruling that explores how to ensure sufficient and predictable support over the long term. I agree with you that we must take a close look at expanding access to and funding for our small-carrier cost model and that we must end the unpredictable cuts to carriers not on the model. Increased funding will boost broadband deployment in rural America, and the additional reforms will put our high-cost system on a more efficient path so that every American can benefit from the digital revolution. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and I aim to circulate an order ensuring adequate and efficient funding for rural broadband deployment later this year.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai".  
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Mark Warner  
United States Senate  
475 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Warner:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural American—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

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I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Michael B. Enzi  
United States Senate  
379A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Enzi:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural American—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

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I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Michael Bennet  
United States Senate  
261 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bennet:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

In March, the Commission devoted over \$500 million to increasing deployment by small carriers in rural communities—a reversal of the prior Administration's policy of punishing these carriers instead of rewarding them for providing high-speed, high-quality services. As part of that action, we also doubled down on our model-based support for hard-to-serve communities, increasing the funding for carriers willing to build out in an efficient manner. In April, we then moved forward by proposing to eliminate many of the legacy burdens for small, model-based carriers serving businesses in rural American—burdens that unnecessarily divert funding from build-out to paperwork. And in June, we eliminated a rule that penalized small rural carriers with extra Universal Service fees whenever they offered broadband.

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Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Michael D. Crapo  
United States Senate  
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Crapo:

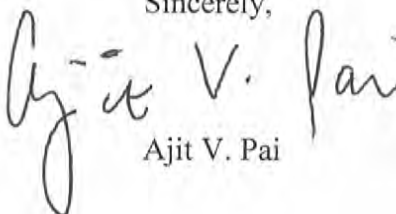
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Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Mike Rounds  
United States Senate  
502 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Rounds:

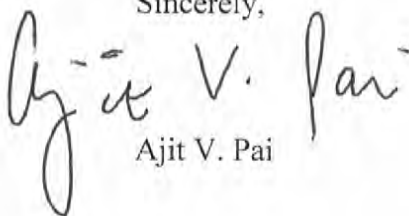
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Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Pat Roberts  
United States Senate  
109 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

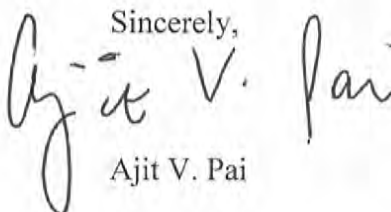
Dear Senator Roberts:

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Sincerely,  
  
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
United States Senate  
437 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

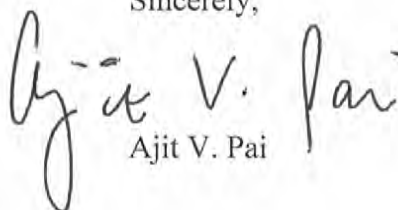
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Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Patty Murray  
United States Senate  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

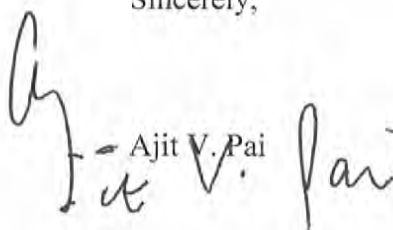
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senate  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Richard M. Burr  
United States Senate  
217 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Burr:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Rob Portman  
United States Senate  
448 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Portman:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
United States Senate  
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wicker:

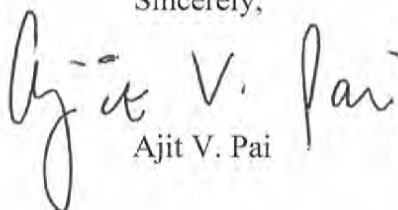
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Ron Johnson  
United States Senate  
328 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Johnson:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
United States Senate  
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

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I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ajit V. Pai".  
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
United States Senate  
260 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Blunt:

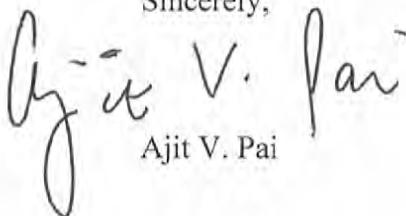
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Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senate  
172 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Capito:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai".  
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Steve Daines  
United States Senate  
320 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Daines:

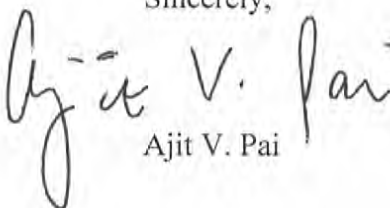
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Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Susan Collins  
United States Senate  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Collins:

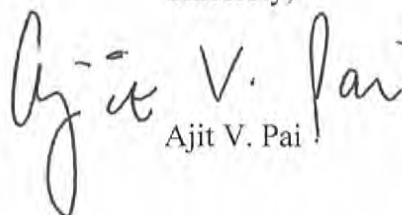
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Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Baldwin:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai".  
Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senate  
G12 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Duckworth:

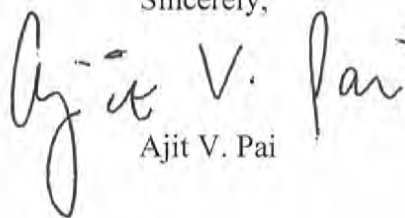
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I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent.

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Thom Tillis  
United States Senate  
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Tillis:

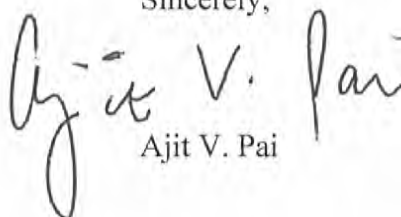
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Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Tim Kaine  
United States Senate  
231 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kaine:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Tim Scott  
United States Senate  
520 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Scott:

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Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Tina Smith  
United States Senate  
309 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Smith:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Todd Young  
United States Senate  
B33 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Young:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans. I wholeheartedly agree that closing the digital divide is our foremost mission as an agency, and I appreciate your recognition of the work the Commission completed earlier this year to foster further deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

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Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 6, 2018

The Honorable Tom Cotton  
United States Senate  
124 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cotton:

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